

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine operating in either a normal state or an abnormal state, the gaming machine comprising:

a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, the game result display device having an effect display area portion, the effect display area portion displaying first indicia indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state;

a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device; and

an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs thereby placing the gaming machine in the abnormal state;

wherein, in the abnormal state, the abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality in plural times according to stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state and,

the information concerning the abnormality is displayed in an the effect display area portion of the game result display device in a repeating series of information text messages with a subsequent one of the information text messages being at least substantially superimposed on an immediately preceding information text message such that a first information text message indicates the abnormality has occurred and a second information text message provides a removal procedure for removing the cause of the abnormality and,

when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the first indicia and to display second indicia, the second indicia being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the abnormality notification device repeatedly notifies the information.

4. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the abnormality notification device changes the information concerning with the abnormality according to progress in the restoration work of the abnormality or lapse of a predetermined time.

5. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the abnormality notification device notifies predetermined information concerning with the abnormality based on a predetermined operation

6. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

an abnormality occurrence history storing device for storing a predetermined history of the information concerning with the abnormality:

wherein the abnormality notification device changes a notifying mode of the information based on the predetermined history of the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device.

7. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the game result display device is constructed from a first display device and a second display device which is arranged in front of the first display device when seen from a front side of the gaming machine, and

wherein the abnormality notification device displays the information concerning with the abnormality on the second display device.

8. - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine operating in either a normal state or an abnormal state, the gaming machine comprising:

a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, the game result display device having an effect display area portion, the effect display area portion displaying first indicia indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the normal state;

a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device; and

an abnormality notification device for notifying abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs thereby placing the gaming machine in the abnormal state;  
and

an abnormality occurrence history storing device for counting a number of times of the abnormality occurrence and storing information concerning with the number of times of the abnormality occurrence;

wherein the abnormality notification device notifies the information in plural times,

wherein the number of times of the abnormality occurrence is classified into at least a first group and a second group, and the first group corresponds to a first notifying mode and the second group corresponds to a second notifying mode, and

wherein the abnormality notification device notifies the abnormality through the first notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the first group and notifies the abnormality through the second notifying mode when the number of times of the abnormality occurrence belongs to the second group, based on the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device and,

when the abnormality occurs, the gaming machine shifts from the normal state to the abnormal state and the abnormality notification device causes the effect display area portion of the game result display device to discontinue displaying the

first indicia and to display second indicia, the second indicia being different from the first indicia and indicating that the gaming machine is operating in the abnormal state.

16. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein the abnormality notification device repeatedly notifies the information.

17. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein the abnormality notification device changes the information concerning with the abnormality according to progress in restoration work of the abnormality or lapse of a predetermined time.

18. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 15, the abnormality notification device notifies predetermined information concerning with the abnormality based on a predetermined operation.

19. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 15, further wherein the game result display device is constructed from a first display device and a second display device which is arranged in front of the first display device when seen from a front side of the gaming machine, and

wherein the abnormality notification device displays the information concerning with the abnormality in the second display device.